

IG BURNS  
\$300,000,000  
MENACED BY  
FLAMES

Home of Great Financial  
Institutions in New York  
Destroyed.

## AMERICAN SOLDIERS TO BE SENT TO CHINA

FOUR KNOWN DEAD;  
OTHERS ARE MISSING

Loss May Reach \$15,000,000;  
Many Thrilling Escapes  
From Death.

New York, N. Y., Jan. 8.—The great marble nine story building of the Equitable Life Assurance society, at 120 Broadway, the home of the Mercantile Trust company, the Equitable Trust company, the banking house of Kountze brothers, the Mercantile Safe Deposit company and the Harriman lines, was destroyed early today by fire.

**Four Known Dead.**  
Four men are known to be dead and five injured in the fire and several persons are missing, including battalion chief Walsh. The fire was still burning in the debris in the basement of the building this afternoon. Conservative estimates of the damage placed the loss in the neighborhood of \$10,000,000, while others say the loss will run as high as \$15,000,000.

**Fire Menaces \$300,000,000.**  
According to an officer of the Equitable, the great safety deposit vaults in the building contained last night securities aggregating between \$290,000,000 and \$300,000,000. The vaults are believed to be intact.

**Banker Imprisoned in Vault.**  
William Giblin, president of the Mercantile Bank of India, was found in the vaults of the Equitable building last night.

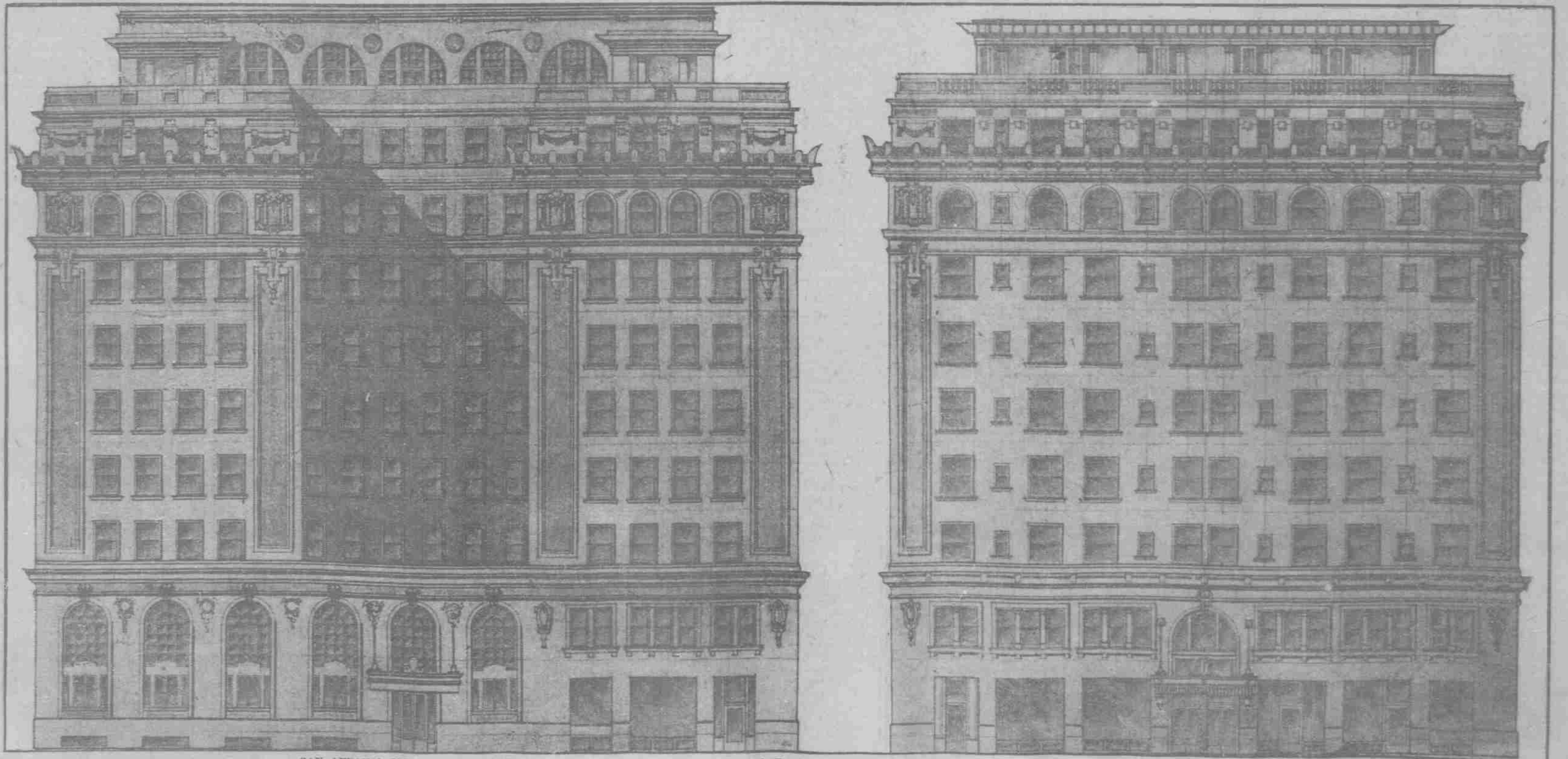
Antilla Safe Deposit company, was imprisoned with three other employees in the vaults and was rescued after the fire. The two tower employees were killed. One man is believed to have lost his life in the vaults.

Deputy fire chief Walsh was imprisoned in the burning structure.

The fire was caused by a gas leak in the financial district and the flames were fought mainly from the tops of towering skyscrapers. Business was stopped almost to a standstill among the banking and business districts, where employees could not reach the scene of their daily activities. Financial firms stopped business to care for the firemen.

Most of the vital records of the Equitable Life Assurance society were kept in the branch offices of the society in the Hazen building, several

**Started in a Cafe.**  
The Equitable building occupies the block between Broadway and Nassau street and Pine and Cedar streets. The fire was first discovered on the ground floor in a store room of the cafe Savarin and carried by a draft of air shot



EL PASO STREET ELEVATION